

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 ACDA-19 GAC-01 MBFR-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4645

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, GW, NATO

SUBJ: FRG REACTION TO KISSINGER ASSOCIATED PRESS LUNCHEON

ADDRESS

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH NEWSPAPER OFFICES WERE CLOSED IN GERMANY ON APRIL 23 FOR THE EASTER MONDAY HOLIDAY, THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN SOME PRESS COVERAGE OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER KISSINGER'S APRIL 23 SPEECH TO THE AP ANNUAL LUNCHEON IN NEW YORK, INCLUDING A FRONT- PAGE STORY IN DIE WELT. MOST OTHER PAPERS, WHICH WENT TO PRESS TOO EARLY TO HAVE FULL REPORTS ON THE SPEECH, RAN SHORT

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WIRE- SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF IT. THERE HAS SO FAR BEEN NO EDITORIAL COMMENTS. GOVERNMENT OFFICES WERE ALSO CLOSED ON APRIL 23, AND MOST SENIOR OFFICIALS WERE OUT OF TOWN. ACTING FONMIN VAN WELL GAVE AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND A VERY POSITIVE APPRAISAL OF THE SPEECH ON APRIL 24. WE WOULD EXPECT SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL COMMENT IN THE COURSE OF THIS WEEK AS EDITORS, GOVERNMENT AND PARTY OFFICIALS BEGIN TO TRICKLE BACK TO BONN. END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN OFFICE POLITICAL DIRECTOR VAN WELL, WHO HAS BEEN ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE ABSENCE OF SCHEEL AND STATE SECRETARY FRANK TOLD AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND ON APRIL 24 THAT THE GOVERNMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN WOULD GIVE AN OFFICIAL FRG REACTION AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE LATER IN THE DAY. HE SAID THAT A COPY OF THE TEXT HAD ALSO BEEN SENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL WHO IS ON VACATION IN AUSTRIA. VAN WELL SAID THAT HE HIMSELF HAD FOUND THE SPEECH EXTREMELY INTERESTING AND IMPRESSIVE. IN HIS VIEW, IT COULD BE REGARDED AS A KEYNOTE TO THE U. S.- EUROPEAN DIALOGUE-- A DIALOGUE WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY BEING GEARED MORE AND MORE TO THE TOP LEVEL. IT WAS THE FIRST POLICY STATEMENT WHICH PROVIDED AN " ALL EMBRACING TABLEAU" OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY WOULD NEED TO FACE. VAN WELL SAID THE FRG WAS PLEASED BY THE EMPHASIS PLACED IN THE ADDRESS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AS WELL AS ON INTEGRATION OF DEFENSE EFFORTS, AND WAS GRATIFIED BY THE STATEMENT OF U. S. DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE TO SHARE IN THE COMMON DEFENSE. HE PARTICULARLY LIKED MENTION OF THE FACT THAT THE FORTHCOMING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE U. S. AND EUROPE WERE DESCRIBED AS " NOT A TEST OF STRENGTH BUT OF JOINT STATESMANSHIP."

3. VAN WELL THOUGHT THAT KISSINGER' S COMMENTS ON MBFR JIBED WELL WITH THE FRG VIEW ON THE NEED FOR A " PHASED AND BALANCED APPROACH". IN VAN WELLS' VIEW, THE STATE- MENT IN THE SPEECH THAT AUNIFIED AND INTEGRATED WESTERN DEFENSE EFFORT MUST BE SEEN IN LIGHT OF RADICALLY CHANGED STRATEGIC CONDITIONS OPENED UP THE POSSIBILITY OF NEW U. S. APPROACHES TO THESE PROBLEMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH, HOWEVER, HAD NOT BEEN SPELLED OUT. HE SAID THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD WAIT AND SEE WHAT THIS REALLY MEANT.

4. MAJOR PRESS TREATMENT OF THE ADDRESS WAS CARRIED BY " DIE WELT" WHICH IS PUBLISHED REGIONALLY AND THUS CAN GO TO PRESS MUCH LATER THAN OTHER MAJOR DAILIES.

IN A DESPATCH DATED WASHINGTON, THE PAPER'S U. S. CORRESPONDENT HEINZ BARTH WRITES THAT THE KISSINGER SPEECH IS BEING DESCRIBED IN WASHINGTON AS A BASIC POLICY STATEMENT OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE WHICH PROVIDES THE FIRST OUTLINES OF THE OBJECTIVES TO BE PURSUED BY THE U. S. DURING THE "YEAR OF EUROPE" PROCLAIMED BY PRESIDENT NIXON. HE DESCRIBES THE ADDRESS AS THE "STARTING POINT FOR A NEW PHASE IN AMERICAN EUROPEAN POLICY.

5. IN ADDITION TO HIGHLIGHTING THE PROPOSAL FOR A NEW "ATLANTIC CHARTER", BARTH PLACES PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE DETERMINATION OF THE U. S. TO MAINTAIN ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN EUROPE AND ON HIS REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR AN EQUAL DIVISION OF THE BURDENS FLOWING FROM THE COMMON DEFENSE POLICY. BARTH COMMENTS THAT THE LATTER POINT CONCEALS THE APPARENT AMERICAN WISH TO PURSUE ITS SECURITY POLICIES WITH A MINIMUM OF COST AND EFFORT. HE SEES IN THESE PORTIONS OF THE KISSINGER SPEECH CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THE RECENT "WAVE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES CANNOT HAVE HELPED BUT MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION."

HILLENBRAND

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